Claims

1.   Method for the user-based processing of electronic
messages with file attachments, said method having the
5   following steps:
(a)   replacement of at least one file attachment of the
electronic message by a memory location link to a user-selected
memory location in a user file system to modify the electronic
message; and
10 (b)   saving of the at least one file attachment of the
electronic message at the user-selected memory location in the
user file system.

2.   Method according to claim 1,
15 characterized by the further step:
(c)   creation of a message link to the modified electronic
message at the user-selected memory location in the user file
system.

20 3.   Method according to claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that when the at least one file attachment is
saved, the file name of the file attachment is amended.

4.   Method according to claim 3,
25 characterized in that when the message link is created, the
amended file name of the file attachment is taken into account.

5.   Method according to one of claims 1 to 4,
characterized in that the electronic message is an e-mail of an
30 SMTP e-mail client.

6.   Method according to one of claims 1 to 5,

characterized in that the file attachment is saved according to defined rules and/or in a set file structure.

7. Device for the user-based processing of electronic messages with
an e-mail client (1) for receiving electronic messages with file attachments;
an attachment substitution unit (2) for replacing a file attachment of a received electronic message by a memory location link;
a user file system (3) for storing file attachments;
an attachments insertion unit (4) for inserting the replaced file attachment at a selected memory location in the user file system (3); and
a control unit (5) for controlling the e-mail client (1), the attachments substitution unit (2) and the attachments insertion unit (4).

8. Device according to claim 7,
characterized by a link insertion unit (4A) for inserting a message link at the selected memory location in the user file system (3), which link refers to an electronic message with a replaced file attachment.

9. Device according to claim 8,
characterized in that the inserted message link has a file name identical to that of the inserted file attachment.

10. Device according to one of claims 7 to 9,
characterized in that the attachments insertion unit (4) files the replaced file attachment in the user file system (3) under an amended file name.

11.   Device according to one of claims 7 to 10,
characterized in that the attachments insertion unit (4) files
the replaced file attachment in the user file system (3)
according to user-defined rules and/or in a user-defined file
5   structure.